

HERPETOLOGY.—*Contributions to the herpetofauna of Virginia, 2: The reptiles and amphibians of Northern Neck.* CLYDE F. REED, Baltimore, Md. (Communicated by Doris M. Cochran.)

(Received September 12, 1956)

Northern Neck is the peninsula that lies to the south of the Potomac River and is bounded on the north by that river, on the south by the Rappahannock River, and on the east by the Chesapeake Bay. As the Maryland State line goes to the shore of the Potomac River on the southern side, many of the deep-sea turtles that get up the Potomac River may be considered both as Maryland and Virginia records. Five counties make up the peninsula (from the northernmost to the southernmost): King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster.

The Peninsula is made up of coastal soils only. There are some swampy areas and mill ponds, but for the most part of the land it is dry and woody. Several plants reach their northern limit of distribution, west of the Chesapeake Bay, on this Peninsula, as for example *Asarum virginicum* (heart-leaves), *Oxydendrum arboreum* (sourwood), and *Galax aphylla* (wandflower).

Since collections of the herpetofauna are rather meager in museums for this peninsula, the author has collected rather extensively in this region for several years. Some species have never been found which undoubtedly are there, as *Hyla cinerea*, *Hyla versicolor*, *Plethodon cinereus*, and the Ambystomas. Descriptions of "swamp puppies" may be Ambystomas, but I have not been able to find any. Large red salamanders with black spots were reported to the author by natives around Moraticco in Lancaster County. While inquiring about toads, the author was told that all the toads vanished some years ago, with apparently no cause. However, in the last few years, they have been reappearing. Both species have been caught on the peninsula by the author.

Deep-sea turtles seem to be quite common off the eastern shores of Northumberland and Lancaster Counties in the Chesapeake Bay and up the lower end of the Potomac River (which would actually be Maryland

waters). Capt. Walter J. Biddlecomb of Fairport is a fisherman in this region and reported to the author that several of the sea turtles are very common at certain times of the year. As many as four *Caretta* or loggerheads have been caught at a time in the nets. Three were presented to the author by Captain Biddlecomb from a single catch, along with a Ridley's turtle. A picture of a leatherback caught by Capt. Biddlecomb in 1952 is illustrated herein (Fig. 1). Diamondbacks are fairly common, there being two types as mentioned below.



FIG. 1.—Capt. Walter J. Biddlecomb and son with largest turtle (*Dermochelys c. coriacea*) ever caught in Chesapeake Bay. See listing no. 35, p. 23.

Below is given an annotated list of specimens that have been collected or studied by the author. With more extensive collecting, the several species which should be here may be added in the future.

1. *Hyla crucifer crucifer* Wied—Northern spring peeper. LANCASTER COUNTY: White Stone, July 6, 1948, R. L. Hoffman (U.S.N.M. no. 131939).

2. *Scaphiopus holbrooki holbrooki* (Harlan)—Spadefoot toad. (Fowler, Copeia, 1918, no. 55: 44. Tappahannock, ESSEX COUNTY, which is just across the Rappahannock River from Richmond County.)

3. *Rana clamitans* Latreille—Green frog. LANCASTER COUNTY: 2 miles south of Lively, August 17, 1948, R. L. Hoffman (U.S.N.M. no. 132404); 1 mile north of Moratico. May 27, 1956, Reed 1047. RICHMOND COUNTY: Ivondale near Farnham, June 5, 1954, Reed 899-904; June 29, 1954, Reed 931 and 988.

4. *Rana palustris* LeConte—Pickerel frog. LANCASTER COUNTY: Kemper's Mill Pond near Kilmarnock, June 5, 1954, Reed 905-906.

5. *Rana catesbeiana* Shaw—Bull frog. LANCASTER COUNTY: Kemper's Mill Pond near Kilmarnock, June 5, 1954, Reed observ.; pond near Lancaster, May 27, 1956, Reed observ.

6. *Bufo woodhousei fowleri* Hinckley—Fowler's toad. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: fields between Reedville and Ophelia, June 9, 1956, Reed 1157-58.

7. *Bufo terrestris americanus* Holbrook—American toad. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: near Chandler's Mill Pond, May 29, 1954, Reed 896.

8. *Desmognathus fuscus fuscus* (Green)—Dusky salamander. KING GEORGE COUNTY: U.S.N.M. no. 45875. RICHMOND COUNTY: Near Village, edge of pond, May 29, 1954, Reed 889. LANCASTER COUNTY: Under log near Chinn's Mill, June 29, 1954, Reed 936. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Heathsville, May 29, 1954, Reed 888.

9. *Eurycea bislineata bislineata* (Green)—Two-lined salamander. LANCASTER COUNTY: U.S.N.M. nos. 131927-28.

10. *Pseudotriton montanus montanus* Baird—Eastern mud salamander. KING GEORGE COUNTY: Aylett, Dr. Paul R. Burch, Radford College. (See Hoffman, Herpetologica 4 (2): 68. 1947.)

11. *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* (Linnaeus)—Eastern race runner. LANCASTER COUNTY: Kemper's Mill Pond, on dry hill slopes, plentiful, May 29, 1954, Reed 884. RICHMOND COUNTY: Near Village, July 1955, Reed. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Observed on sandy slopes, June 5,

1954, Reed; KING GEORGE COUNTY: Near Shiloh, August 10, 1955, Reed observ.

12. *Eumeces fasciatus* (Linnaeus)—Five-lined skink. LANCASTER COUNTY: North of Kilmarnock, May 29, 1954, Reed 891; south of Lively, June 5, 1954, Reed 915. RICHMOND COUNTY: South of Warsaw. June 5, 1954, Reed 916-917. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Chandler's Mill Pond, June 5, 1954, Reed 909. KING GEORGE COUNTY: Near Shiloh, August 10, 1955, Reed observ.

13. *Eumeces inexpectatus* Taylor—Florida five-lined skink. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: 1 mile north of Heathsville, May 15, 1954, Reed 954 (verified by Walter Newman). (See Reed, Herpetologica, 1956.)

14. *Eumeces laticeps* (Schneider)—Greater five-lined skink. LANCASTER COUNTY: North of Kilmarnock in wood pile, May 29, 1954, Reed 894. KING GEORGE COUNTY: Near Shiloh, Aug. 10, 1955, Reed observ.

15. *Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus* (Green)—Northern fence swift. LANCASTER COUNTY: Near Kemper's Mill Pond, May 29, 1954, Reed 890; June 5, 1954, Reed 908; south of Lively, June 5, 1954, Reed 907. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: South of Wicomico Church, May 29, 1954, Reed 885-886; 1 mile north of Heathsville, May 29, 1954, Reed 892-893. RICHMOND COUNTY: Near Haynesville, May 29, 1954, Reed 887; south of Warsaw, June 5, 1954, Reed 918; near Village, July 10, 1955, Reed observ. KING GEORGE COUNTY: Near Shiloh, August 10, 1955, Reed observ.

16. *Natrix sipedon sipedon* (Linnaeus)—Common water snake. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Chandler's Mill Pond, north of Montross, August 10, 1955, Reed observ.; Dunn, Copeia, 1918, no. 53: 25.

17. *Ophedrys aestivus* (Linnæus)—Rough green snake. LANCASTER COUNTY: U.S.N.M. no. 131930. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Climbing over shrubs, south of Wicomico Church, May 29, 1954, Reed 895. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Chandler's Mill Pond, north of Montross, August 10, 1955, Reed observ.

18. *Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta* (Say)—Pilot black snake. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Hampton Hall Creek, May 29, 1954, Reed; Chandler's Mill Pond, north of Montross, August 10, 1955, Reed observ. RICHMOND COUNTY: At Ivondale near Farnham, June 29, 1954, Reed observ. KING GEORGE COUNTY: Near Shiloh, 6-7 foot long, August 10, 1955, Reed observ.

19. *Elaphe guttata guttata* (Linnaeus)—Corn snake. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Hague, DOR, May 27, 1956, Reed 1046.

20. *Coluber constrictor constrictor* Linnaeus—Black racer. KING GEORGE COUNTY: Oak Grove,

DOR, June 9, 1956, Reed observ.; DOR, south of Potomac River Bridge near Dahlgren, June 9, 1956, Reed 1156.

21. *Thamnophis sauritus sauritus* (Linnaeus)—Eastern ribbon snake. LANCASTER COUNTY: Near Lancaster, climbing over shrubs along creek, June 29, 1954, Reed 935.

22. *Carphophis amoena amoena* (Say)—Eastern worm snake. Shore of Potomac, Virginia, U.S.N.M. no. 59954.

23. *Storeria dekayi dekayi* (Holbrook)—DeKay's snake. RICHMOND COUNTY: Ivondale near Farnham, June 5, 1954, Reed 913.

24. *Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata* (Storer)—Red-bellied snake. LANCASTER COUNTY: South of Lively in sawdust pile, June 5, 1954, Reed 914; shed skin, June 15, 1954.

25. *Heterodon platyrhinos platyrhinos* Latreille—Hog-nosed snake. KING GEORGE COUNTY: Near Shiloh, August 10, 1955, Reed observ.; Dunn, Copeia, 1918, No. 53: 25. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Chandler's Mill Pond, north of Montross, August 10, 1955, Reed observ.

26. *Ancistrodon contortrix* (Linnaeus)—Copperhead. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Reported by natives from Chandler's Mill Pond region, north of Montross, August 10, 1955 (Reed).

27. *Terrapene carolina carolina* (Linnaeus)—Common box turtle. KING GEORGE COUNTY: DOR, near Potomac River Bridge, June 10, 1956, Reed observ.; near Osso, August 10, 1955; 3 miles west of King George, August 10, 1955, Reed observ. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Oak Grove, June 10, 1956, Reed observ.; west of Montross, June 10, 1956, Reed observ.; south of Oak Grove, May 29, 1954, Reed 882. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Near Burgess Store, May 29, 1954, Reed 880; near Remo, May 27, 1956, Reed observ. LANCASTER COUNTY: Near Lancaster, May 27, 1956, Reed observ.

28. *Lepidochelys kempi* (Garman)—Ridley turtle. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Reedville, U.S.N.M. no. 86814; 3 miles off Great Wicomico Lighthouse, in Chesapeake Bay, June 6, 1956, Capt. Walter J. Biddlecomb collector. Specimen donated to the U.S.N.M. (no. 137573) by Reed, 31 pounds.

29. *Chelydra serpentina serpentina* (Linnaeus)—Snapping turtle. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Village, crossing road, May 27, 1956, Reed observ. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: South of Oak Grove, May 29, 1954, Reed 881; near Colonial Beach, May 15, 1954, Reed 855. LANCASTER COUNTY: Near Lancaster, June 29, 1954, Reed observ.

30. *Chrysemys picta picta* (Schneider)—Eastern painted turtle. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Mill pond 4 miles east of Callao, June 29, 1954, Reed

932; north of Heathsville, May 29, 1954, Reed 878-879. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: South of Oak Grove, May 29, 1954, Reed 882; DOR, just west of Potomac Beach, June 10, 1956, 6 observed on logs in pond, Reed observ.; near Maple Grove, August 10, 1955, Reed observ. LANCASTER COUNTY: Near Lancaster, June 29, 1954, Reed observ. KING GEORGE COUNTY: DOR, near Potomac River Bridge, June 10, 1956, Reed 1065; just north of Maple Grove, August 10, 1956, Reed. RICHMOND COUNTY: Ivondale near Farnham, June 5, 1954, Reed 912.

31. *Sternotherus odoratus* (Latreille)—Common musk turtle. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: North of Heathsville in pond, May 29, 1954, Reed 897; LANCASTER-RICHMOND COUNTY Line: Chinns Mill, June 29, 1954, Reed 934.

32. *Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum* (Lacépède)—Common mud turtle. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: North of Heathsville in pond, May 29, 1954, Reed 898; same locality, June 5, 1954, Reed 911; 4 miles east of Callao, June 29, 1954, Reed 933. LANCASTER COUNTY: Near Lancaster, June 29, 1954, Reed observ. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Dunn, Copeia, 1918, no. 53: 20.

33. *Malaclemys terrapin terrapin* (Schoepff)—Northern diamondback terrapin. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: Off Fairport, Capt. Walter J. Biddlecomb, observ., 1956.

34. *Malaclemys terrapin centrata* (Latreille)—Southern diamondback terrapin. WESTMORELAND COUNTY: Near Machadoc, U.S.N.M. no. 65117. Carr gives the range as "vicinity of Cape Hatteras southward to southern peninsula of Florida"; Schmidt gives the same range. Captain Biddlecomb, who has collected in the mid-Chesapeake Bay for many years, states that there are two types of diamondbacks which he catches off Fairport, Northumberland County, Va. This would indicate that both subspecies live in the lower Chesapeake Bay.

35. *Dermochelys coriacea coriacea* (Linnaeus)—Leatherback turtle. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: 2 miles southeast of Great Wicomico Light House, near Fairport, May-June 1952, Capt. Walter J. Biddlecomb collector (June 7, 1952, *Richmond News Leader*), 700 pounds, 7 feet long, 8-foot flipper span. Fig. 1.

36. *Caretta caretta caretta* (Linnaeus)—Atlantic loggerhead turtle. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY: 3 miles off Great Wicomico Lighthouse, near Fairport, June 6, 1956, Capt. Walter J. Biddlecomb collector. Three specimens caught and observed. Two weighed about 110 pounds each and let go. The third specimen weighed 134 pounds, donated to U.S.N.M. (no. 137572) by Reed.